



Connecticut Department of
**ENERGY &
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION**

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

Public Hearing – February 19, 2016
Environment Committee

Testimony Submitted by Commissioner Robert J. Klee

Raised House Bill No. 5145 – AAC BOATING SAFETY ON CANDLEWOOD LAKE

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding **Raised Bill No. 5145 – AAC Boating Safety on Candlewood Lake**.

House Bill No. 5145 aims to supersede the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP's) existing Boating Regulations. Section 15-121-B15a of the Regulation of Connecticut State Agencies currently addresses the speed of vessels on Candlewood Lake and establishes a night time speed limit of 25 mph from ½ hour after sunset to ½ hour before sunrise for all of Candlewood Lake. (The objective of this bill could also be accomplished by amending the regulation.)

Over the past ten (10) years there have been 51 accidents on Candlewood Lake, with 15 accidents occurring between the hours of 6:00 pm and 7:00 am. Between the hours of 11:00 pm and sunrise there were six accidents. One of the accidents during this time period had two fatalities and three injuries and one accident had three injuries. However, both accidents involved alcohol.

Attached is a table that describes the accidents on Candlewood Lake over the last ten years that occurred between 6:00 pm and 7:00 am.

In general, boating safety may be increased by having a slower speed limit in the late evening. However, we do not have data to definitively support that lowering the speed limit from 25 mph to 15 mph would improve boater safety and achieve fewer injuries or fatalities from boating on the lake.

Because of the varied size of vessels on Candlewood Lake, slowing some displacement hull vessels down to 15 mph could result in the production of larger wakes. Therefore, varying the speed limit could have unforeseen and possibly compromising effects.

In summary, DEEP looks forward to working with the Committee on **Raised House Bill No. 5145 – AAC BOATING SAFETY ON CANDLEWOOD LAKE** to better understand the goals of the proposal.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on this proposal. If you should require any additional information, please contact Robert LaFrance, DEEP's Director of Governmental Affairs, at 860.424.3401 or Robert.LaFrance@ct.gov(or, Elizabeth McAuliffe, DEEP Legislative Liaison, at 860.424.3458 or Elizabeth.McAuliffe@ct.gov .

**SUMMARY OF BOATING ACCIDENTS OCCURRING BETWEEN 6 PM AND 7AM
ON CANDLEWOOD LAKE OVER THE LAST 10 YEARS**

DATE of ACCIDENT	TIME	AM or PM	ALCOHOL INVOLVED	NUMBER VESSELS INVOLVED	NUMBER DECEASED	NUMBER INJURED	ACCIDENT TYPE	ESTIMATED SPEED (MPH)
07/03/06	10:30	PM	No	1	0	1	grounding	0 - 10
07/28/07	6:15	PM	No	1	0	3	skier mishap	11 - 20
07/05/08	6:15	PM	No	1	0	1	skier mishap	accelerating
07/19/08	1:17	AM	Yes	2	2	3	collision with vessel	21 - 40
06/27/09	11:30	PM	No	2	0	0	collision with docked vessel	0 - 10
07/19/09	3:00	AM	Yes	1	0	3	collision with fixed object	21 - 40
08/16/09	2:50	AM	No	2	0	0	collision with docked vessel	0 - 10
10/21/09	8:30	PM	No	1	0	0	grounding	11 - 20
05/30/10	9:15	PM	No	2	0	0	collision with vessel	11 - 20
06/5/10	1:45	AM	No	2	0	0	collision with vessel	11 - 20
06/25/11	8:00	PM	No	2	0	0	collision with docked vessel	0 - 10
07/24/11	7:25	PM	No	2	0	0	collision with docked vessel	20 - 40
07/15/12	2:00	AM	No	2	0	0	collision with vessel	11 - 20
06/29/14	7:53	PM	Yes	1	0	1	other-struck boat wake	21 - 40
06/26/15	9:10	PM	Unknown	2	0	0	fire or explosion (fuel)	0 - 10